

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for contract-based aggregation, comprising:
  - 2 (a) receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records are
  - 3 received in at least one aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records;
  - 4 (b) identifying contracts associated with the records; and
  - 5 (c) aggregating the records based at least in part on the contracts using the at
  - 6 least one aggregator.
- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the contracts are between a
- 2 customer and a service provider operating the aggregator.
- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the contracts are for different
- 2 levels of services to be provided to the customer.
- 1 4. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the contracts are for different
- 2 services to be provided to the customer.
- 1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a contract identifier is included as
- 2 a component of the records.
- 1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a speed with which the records are
- 2 aggregated is based on the contracts.
- 1 7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein an amount of data processed while
- 2 the records are aggregated is based on the contracts.

- 1 8. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the data is selected from the group  
2 consisting of a customer identifier, a service identifier, a source identifier, a  
3 destination identifier, a records size identifier, and a quality of service  
4 identifier.
- 1 9. The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising separating the  
2 records into separate groups based on the contracts, and aggregating the  
3 records of each group using a separate aggregator.
- 1 10. The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising aggregating the  
2 records to generate separate aggregations using a single aggregator.
- 1 11. A computer program product for contract-based aggregation, comprising:  
2 (a) computer code for receiving records indicative of network events, wherein  
3 the records are received in at least one aggregator for the purpose of  
4 aggregating the records;  
5 (b) computer code for identifying contracts associated with the records; and  
6 (c) computer code for aggregating the records based at least in part on the  
7 contracts using the at least one aggregator.
- 1 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the contracts  
2 are between a customer and a service provider operating the aggregator.
- 1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the contracts  
2 are for different levels of services to be provided to the customer.
- 1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the contracts  
2 are for different services to be provided to the customer.

- 1 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein a contract  
2 identifier is included as a component of the records.
- 1 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein a speed with  
2 which the records are aggregated is based on the contracts.
- 1 17. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein an amount of  
2 data processed while the records are aggregated is based on the contracts.
- 1 18. The computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein the data is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a customer identifier, a service  
3 identifier, a source identifier, a destination identifier, a records size identifier,  
4 and a quality of service identifier.
- 1 19. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, and further comprising  
2 computer code for separating the records into separate groups based on the  
3 contracts, and computer code for aggregating the records of each group using  
4 a separate aggregator.
- 1 20. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, and further comprising  
2 computer code for aggregating the records to generate separate aggregations  
3 using a single aggregator.
- 1 21. A system for contract-based aggregation, comprising:  
2 (a) logic for receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records  
3 are received in at least one aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the  
4 records;  
5 (b) logic for identifying contracts associated with the records; and  
6 (c) logic for aggregating the records based at least in part on the contracts using  
7 the at least one aggregator.

- [illegible]